

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Health Services Council**  
**Project Review Committee-I**

**DATE: 14 November 2006      TIME: 2:30 PM**

**LOCATION: Health Policy Forum**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair) Edward Almon, John W. Flynn, Amy Lapierre, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Robert Ricci**

**Not Present: Robert Whiteside**

**Excused Absence: Joseph Centofanti, M.D. , John Keimig, Robert S. L. Kinder, M.D.**

**Other Members: Present: Larry Ross**

**Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Bruce Cryan, Michael K. Dexter, Don Williams**

**Public: (Attached)**

## **1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability**

**The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by six in favor and none opposed (6-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Flynn, Lapierre, Quigley, Ricci.**

## **2. General Order of Business**

**The first item on the agenda was the application of South County Hospital Healthcare System for a Certificate of Need to establish a diagnostic cardiac catheterization service. Staff noted what was mailed and that the applicant handed out a copy of their PowerPoint presentation.**

**Staff read staff's memo. Staff noted that in 2006 there was an average 60% utilization rate and three out seven hospitals operated below a 33% utilization rate. From 2001 to 2006 there was a decline of 1.9%.**

**Based on Mr. Zimmerman report there was a need for 9.9 cath labs and availability of 13 cath labs in 2006. Mr. Zimmerman project a surplus of cath labs through 2011. Staff read into the record direct quotes from Mr. Zimmerman's report that: "It is likely that the addition of a cardiac cath program at South County Hospital would result in a decline in utilization at Westerly and Kent Hospitals as well as at Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals" and "Both Kent Hospital and Westerly Hospital, with market areas overlapping the South County Hospital market areas, have excess capacity and can accommodate more diagnostic angiography patients." Staff noted that from 2005 to 2006 Kent Hospital experienced a 9% decline and Westerly Hospital a 17% decline.**

**The applicant made a PowerPoint presentation discussing their proposal. The presentation addressed the issue of community need, the impact on medical staff improvement and retention, quality of care in the area of cardiology by South County Hospital, and issue of equity and fairness and the development of successful cardiac services by other community hospitals.**

**Mr. Ross asked how many, out of the 300 procedures performed at Rhode Island Hospital, would be performed at South County Hospital.**

**The applicant answered approximately 70%.**

**Staff noted that the Tertiary Care Advisory Committee has been established with the first charge to review the Leapfrog Group and**

the Federal Agency for Health Care Quality volume/quality data. Phase two of that charge is for the Committee to look at all cardiac services including diagnostic catheterization and review those to see if any regulations need to be added or changed.

There was discussion regarding the difference in the number of cases projected to be performed. The applicant stated that its surgeons currently perform 300 cases at Rhode Island Hospital and projects performing 400 cases at South County Hospital, if approved.

Mr. Ross noted that certain cases should not be done at South County Hospital for a variety of reasons and some people will go elsewhere for other reasons. The applicant stated that there is growth in its service.

Mr. Almon stated that this area is unserved and is in support of this program.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that the growth in SCH's service from 2005-2006 was only 8 procedures and in 2004-2005 it was 42 procedures. There is a decreasing rate of increase and now there is a surplus of 3.1 cath labs statewide. He noted if you exclude Miriam Hospital's cath lab and its volume from the analysis there was a surplus of 4.4 cath labs.

Mr. Almon stated that he is not questioning Mr. Zimmerman and that

**Rhode Island is over-served but when concentrating on a particular region then it is unserved. There was a discussion about the allocation of the cath labs in the state.**

**Mr. Flynn noted that he is uncomfortable with the projections and whether SCH has the number of procedures that's considered an acceptable minimum for cardiac cath.**

**Mr. Ross noted the issue of the statewide decline in procedures in 2006 and asked whether this issue should be continued in 6 months.**

**There was considerable discussion regarding the applicants' volume projections. Mr. Flynn asked Mr. Zimmerman whether he has an opinion on the 400 projection. Mr. Zimmerman stated that it's a reasonable estimate.**

**The Chairman noted his concern over the decline in procedures from 2001-2006.**

**Ms. Almeida stated that she agrees with Mr. Almon and supports this application.**

**A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of four in favor and two opposed (4-2) to recommend that the application be approved. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Almeida, Almon, Flynn, Ricci. Those opposed were: Lapierre, Quigley.**

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Valentina D. Adamova**